



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **SPRINGFIELD MAN SENTENCED TO 35 YEARS FOR SEXUALLY EXPLOITING MINOR, POSSESSING CHILD PORN**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a Springfield, Mo., man has been sentenced in federal court for sexually exploiting a minor for the purpose of producing child pornography and for possessing child pornography.

**Stephen M. Taylor**, 50, of Springfield, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright on Thursday to 35 years in federal prison without parole, followed by supervised release for the rest of his life.

On April 6, 2005, **Taylor** pleaded guilty to charges contained in a July 12, 2004, federal indictment. **Taylor** admitted that, between November and December 2003, he persuaded or coerced a minor male to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing visual depictions of such conduct. **Taylor** also admitted that he was in possession of child pornography and caused a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing those photographs.

“**Taylor** has prior state convictions for sexually abusing minors,” Graves said. “He is a repeat offender who has already served time in prison but continues to prey upon children. The only way to insure that he no longer poses a threat is to keep him incarcerated for what could amount to the rest of his life.”

**Taylor** was convicted of three counts of first degree sexual abuse in Arkansas in 1988, in which the victim of sexual abuse was a minor.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rose A. Barber. It was investigated by the Springfield, Mo., Police Department.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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